

16
A:2P
0006
2

THE NORTH CAROLINA AWARDS



2006

THE AWARD

The North Carolina Awards were instituted by the 1961 General Assembly, which acted on the idea of Dr. Robert Lee Humber of Greenville, State Senator from Pitt County. The purpose of the Awards, as set forth in the statutes, is to recognize "notable accomplishments by North Carolina citizens in the fields of scholarship, research, the fine arts and public leadership." It is the highest honor the state can bestow.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

N.C. DOCUMENTS
CLEARINGHOUSE

NOV 13 2006

STATE LIBRARY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
RALEIGH

The North Carolina Award was designed by the eminent sculptor Paul Manship and was one of his last commissions before his death.

THE AWARD

The North Carolina Awards were instituted by the 1961 General Assembly, which acted on the idea of Dr. Robert Lee Humber of Greenville, State Senator from Pitt County. The purpose of the Awards, as set forth in the statutes, is to recognize "notable accomplishments by North Carolina citizens in the fields of scholarship, research, the fine arts and public leadership." It is the highest honor the state can bestow.



N.C. DOCUMENTS
CLEARINGHOUSE

NOV 13 2006

STATE LIBRARY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
RALEIGH

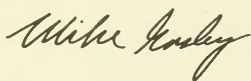
The North Carolina Award was designed by the eminent sculptor Paul Manship and was one of his last commissions before his death.

**THE NORTH
CAROLINA
AWARDS
COMMITTEE**

The Honorable Jack Cozort, Chairman
Nick Bragg
Hal Crowther
Shirley T. Frye
Jean W. McLaughlin

The North Carolina Award is the highest honor our state can bestow. Created in 1961 by the General Assembly, the award is given yearly to men and women who have made significant contributions in science, literature, fine arts, and public service.

On behalf of all North Carolinians I congratulate the 2006 award recipients for their outstanding achievements. We in North Carolina are grateful to these outstanding citizens for their leadership, service, and talent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mike Rooley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "R".

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

43rd North Carolina Awards

Awards Presentation and Dinner

Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Research Triangle Park
November 8, 2006

Pledge of Allegiance

Major General (ret.) Gerald A. Rudisill, Jr.
North Carolina National Guard
Raleigh, North Carolina

PROGRAM

Invocation

Monsignor Gerald Lewis
Raleigh, North Carolina

Remarks and Awards Presentation

The Honorable Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

The Honorable Jack Cozort, Chairman
North Carolina Awards Committee

Governor Michael F. Easley
State of North Carolina

First Lady Mary P. Easley
State of North Carolina

Acknowledgments

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
Biltmore Estate Wine Company
Asheville, North Carolina

PAST RECIPIENTS

1964

John N. Couch
Science

Inglis Fletcher
Literature

John Motley Morehead
Public Service

Clarence Poe
Public Service

Francis Speight
Fine Arts

1965

Frank P. Graham
Public Service

Paul Green
Literature

Gerald W. Johnson
Literature

Hunter Johnson
Fine Arts

Frederick A. Wolf
Science

1966

Bernice Kelly Harris
Literature

Luther H. Hodges
Public Service

A. G. Odell, Jr.
Fine Arts

Oscar K. Rice
Science

1967

Albert Coates
Public Service

Jonathan Daniels
Literature

Carl W. Gottschalk
Science

Benjamin F. Swalin
Fine Arts

Hiram Houston Merritt
Science

1968

Robert Lee Humber
Public Service

Hobson Pittman
Fine Arts

Vermont C. Royster
Literature

Charles Phillips Russell
Literature

Stanley G. Stephens
Science

1969

Kenneth M. Brinkhous
Science

**May Gordon Latham
Kellenberger**
Public Service

Ovid Williams Pierce
Literature

Charles W. Stanford, Jr.
Fine Arts

1970

Philip Handler
Science

Frances Gray Patton
Literature

Henry C. Pearson
Fine Arts

Terry Sanford
Public Service

1971

Guy Owen
Literature

James H. Semans
Fine Arts

**Mary Duke Biddle Trent
Semans**
Fine Arts

Capus Waynick
Public Service

James Edwin Webb
Science

1972

Sidney Alderman Blackmer
Fine Arts

Edward E. Davis, Jr.
Science

John Ehle
Literature

William Dallas Herring
Public Service

Harold Hotelling
Science

1973

Helen Smith Bevington
Literature

Ellis Brevier Cowling
Science

Burke Davis
Literature

Sam J. Ervin
Public Service

Kenneth Ness
Fine Arts

1974

William C. Fields
Fine Arts

Thad G. Stem, Jr.
Literature

Ellen Black Winston
Public Service

James B. Wyngaarden
Science

1975

Doris W. Betts
Literature

John L. Etchells
Science

William C. Friday
Public Service

Robert Ward
Fine Arts

1976

Romare Bearden

Fine Arts

C. Clark Cockerham

Science

Foster Fitz-Simons

Fine Arts

Juanita M. Kreps

Public Service

Richard Walser

Literature

1982

Selma Hortense Burke

Fine Arts

Nancy Winbon Chase

Public Service

Floyd W. Denny, Jr.

Science

Willie Snow Ethridge

Literature

R. Phillip Hanes, Jr.

Fine Arts

1988

Edith London

Fine Arts

Pedro Cuatrecasas

Science

Charles Edward Eaton

Literature

William S. Lee

Public Service

David Brinkley

Public Service

1994

Sarah Blakeslee

Fine Arts

Richard Jenrette

Public Service

Elizabeth Spencer

Literature

Marshall Edgell

Science

Freda Nicholson

Public Service

1977

Elizabeth Duncan Koontz

Public Service

Reginald Glennis Mitchiner

Science

Reynolds Price

Literature

Joseph Curtis Sloane

Fine Arts

Jonathan Williams

Fine Arts

1983

Heather Ross Miller

Literature

Frank Guthrie

Science

Mary Dalton

Fine Arts

Harry Dalton

Fine Arts

Hugh Morton

Public Service

1989

Loonis McGlohon

Fine Arts

Gertrude B. Elion

Science

Ronald Bayes

Literature

Maxine M. Swalin

Public Service

Roy Park

Public Service

1995

Banks C. Talley, Jr.

Public Service

John S. Mayo

Science

John Biggers

Fine Arts

Clyde Hutchison III

Science

James Applewhite

Literature

Kenneth Noland

Fine Arts

1978

Robert Robey Garvey, Jr.

Public Service

Henry L. Kamphoefner

Fine Arts

David Coston Sabiston, Jr.

Science

Harriet L. Tynes

Public Service

Manly Wade Wellman

Literature

1984

George Watts Hill

Public Service

Robert L. Hill

Science

Maud Gatewood

Fine Arts

Lee Smith

Literature

Joseph Mitchell

Literature

Andy Griffith

Fine Arts

1990

Leon Rooke

Literature

H. Keith H. Brodie

Science

Bob Timberlake

Fine Arts

Dean Wallace Colvard

Public Service

Frank H. Kenan

Public Service

1996

Robert W. Scott

Public Service

Martha Clampitt McKay

Public Service

John L. Sanders

Public Service

Betty Adcock

Literature

Joseph S. Pagano

Science

Joanne M. Bath

Fine Arts

1979

Archie K. Davis
Public Service

John D. deButts
Public Service

Harry Golden
Literature

Walter Gordy
Science

Sam Ragan
Fine Arts

1985

J. Gordon Hanes, Jr.
Public Service

Wilma Dykeman
Literature

Irwin Fridovich
Science

Claude F. Howell
Fine Arts

1991

William J. Brown
Fine Arts

Mary Ellen Jones
Science

Robert R. Morgan
Literature

Jesse H. Meredith
Public Service

Elizabeth H. Dole
Public Service

1997

Thomas S. Kenan III
Public Service

M. Mellanay Delhom
Fine Arts

Robert Ian Bruck
Science

Elna B. Spaulding
Public Service

Clyde Edgerton
Literature

1980

Fred Chappell
Literature

George H. Hitchings
Science

Robert Lindgren
Fine Arts

Dan K. Moore
Public Service

Jeanette C. Moore
Public Service

1986

Joseph M. Bryan
Public Service

Billy Graham
Public Service

A. R. Ammons
Literature

Ernest L. Eliel
Science

Doc Watson
Fine Arts

1992

Louis D. Rubin, Jr.
Literature

John M. J. Madey
Science

William McWhorter Cochrane
Public Service

Maxwell R. Thurman
Public Service

Charles R. "Chuck" Davis
Fine Arts

1998

L. Richardson Preyer
Public Service

Emily Harris Preyer
Public Service

Kaye Gibbons
Literature

Robert W. Gray
Fine Arts

Martin Rodbell
Science

Marvin Saltzman
Fine Arts

James V. Taylor
Fine Arts

1981

Adeline McCall
Fine Arts

Glen Rounds
Literature

Ralph H. Scott
Public Service

Vivian T. Stannett
Science

Tom Wicker
Literature

1987

John T. Caldwell
Public Service

Charles Kuralt
Public Service

Maya Angelou
Literature

Robert J. Lefkowitz
Science

Harvey K. Littleton
Fine Arts

1993

John Hope Franklin
Literature

Oliver Smithies
Science

Joe Cox
Fine Arts

Eric Schopler
Public Service

Billy Taylor
Fine Arts

1999

Frank Arthur Daniels, Jr.
Public Service

Julia Jones Daniels
Public Service

Knut Schmidt-Nielsen
Science

Robert G. Parr
Science

Allan Gurganus
Literature

Jill McCorkle
Literature

Frank L. Horton
Fine Arts

Herb Jackson
Fine Arts

General Henry H. Shelton
Public Service

2000

Henry Bowers
Public Service

Harlan E. Boyles
Public Service

S. Tucker Cooke
Fine Arts

William T. Fletcher
Science

James F. Goodmon
Public Service

William S. Powell
Literature

2001

Kathryn Stripling Byer
Literature

W.W. Finlator
Public Service

Robert B. Jordan, III
Public Service

Royce W. Murray
Science

Arthur Smith
Fine Arts

Shelby Stephenson
Literature

2002

William G. Anlyan
Science

Cynthia Bringle
Fine Arts

Julius L. Chambers
Public Service

Martha Nell Hardy
Fine Arts

H.G. Jones
Public Service

Romulus Linney
Literature

Edwin Graves Wilson
Public Service

2003

Etta Baker
Fine Arts

Jaki Shelton Green
Literature

Frank Borden Hanes
Public Service

James Baxter Hunt, Jr.
Public Service

Mary Ann Scherr
Fine Arts

William Thornton
Science

2004

Voit Gilmore
Public Service

Walter J. Harrelson
Literature

William Ivey Long
Fine Arts

Elizabeth Matheson
Fine Arts

Penelope Niven
Literature

LeRoy T. Walker
Public Service

Annie Louise Wilkerson
Science

2005

Joseph M. Bryan, Jr.
Public Service

Betty Debnam Hunt
Public Service

Randall Kenan
Literature

Thomas Willis Lambeth
Public Service

Bland Simpson
Fine Arts

Mansukh C. Wani
Science

2006 NORTH CAROLINA AWARD RECIPIENTS

"The world as I had known it had to be remade while I was a student. It was clear to me as an undergraduate that education had, and must have, moral purpose," Thomas K. Hearn Jr. said. This insight shaped his career as a teacher, scholar, and administrator, as he led the transformation of Wake Forest University from a respected regional institution to a nationally prominent university. For his life-long work in education, Thomas K. Hearn Jr. receives the 2006 North Carolina Award for Public Service.

Hearn grew up in Albertville, Alabama. Intellectually and spiritually challenged by the moral demands of the civil rights movement, Hearn earned a degree in English and philosophy from Birmingham Southern College in 1959, a bachelor of divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctorate in moral philosophy from Vanderbilt University in 1965.

During the 1960s, Hearn taught philosophy at the College of William and Mary. In 1974, Hearn returned to his home state to lead the philosophy department of the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He rose quickly in the administration, becoming dean, vice-president, and, in 1982, senior vice-president.

In 1983, Hearn accepted the presidency of Wake Forest University. Early in his tenure, he worked with the trustees to complete the realignment of the university and its relationship with the Baptist State Convention, a process finalized in 1986, resulting in Wake Forest University becoming an independent institution. Hearn then addressed the campus's shortage of academic space, launching fund-raising campaigns and recruiting a vice president for administration and planning. A new student center, classroom buildings, a center for the law school and business graduate school, and new buildings for the medical school were opened during the 1990s.

Hearn's visionary leadership reached to the professional schools. The law school and business graduate school programs were restructured to provide smaller classes and more personalized instruction. The medical school was renamed the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and its graduate programs were more closely integrated with the university's. Hearn also proposed a new graduate program that would draw on the university's religious heritage; the new divinity school opened in 1999. By his retirement in 2005, Hearn had served for twenty-two years, among the longest tenures for an American university president. The university has been consistently ranked in the top tier of higher education institutions for the past decade.

Hearn's leadership research beyond the campus. He founded Leadership Winston-Salem in 1984. He has chaired the Piedmont Triad Development Corporation, the Center for Creative Leadership, and Winston-Salem Business, Inc. He was instrumental in the development of the Piedmont Triad Research Park, a biotechnology corridor. Recently he spearheaded a drive to support research at the Wake Forest University Health Sciences Brain Tumor Center. At the state level, Hearn was appointed to the North Carolina Education Standards and Accountability Commission and was chair of the North Carolina Transit 2001 Commission. Concerned about college athletics scandals, Hearn was a founding member of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

Dr. Hearn and his wife Laura live in Winston-Salem.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Thomas K. Hearn Jr.



Near the close of his term as governor in 1977, James E. Holshouser Jr. said, "People ask me how I want to be remembered, and some say I ought to be called an Education Governor, or a Good Roads Governor, or a Health Care Governor. But all I hope for is that you'll remember me as a governor who cares about you." For his many contributions to the State of North Carolina, James E. Holshouser Jr. receives the 2006 North Carolina Award for Public Service.

Holshouser was born in 1934 into a family with a tradition of public service. His father was a U.S. District Attorney, and his mother was a nurse. In 1956, he graduated from Davidson College with a bachelor's degree in history. While at the University of North Carolina law school, Holshouser became interested in politics, sitting in on sessions of the state legislature. After graduation, he joined his father's law practice.

In 1961, Holshouser was elected to the first of four terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives. He worked on issues including higher education, judicial reform and reorganization of state government. In 1966, he was elected State Chairman of the Republican Party, the youngest in state history. In 1968, he became the North Carolina campaign manager for Richard Nixon's presidential bid.

In a close election in 1972, Holshouser became the first Republican governor of North Carolina in the twentieth century. He was also the century's youngest Tar Heel governor. Legislation he championed during the election was put into action, such as the state university system consolidation under the Board of Governors. He worked to ensure that the state community college system received significant capital improvement funds. He pushed for the expansion of the state kindergarten program, extending enrollment to children statewide.

Holshouser expanded the participation of minorities and women in his administration. He appointed Grace Rohrer as Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, the first woman in a cabinet-level position. Dr. Larnie Horton, an African American educator, served as the first special assistant to the governor for minority affairs.

Holshouser established health clinics in rural areas not served by local physicians. In response to the energy crisis, he instituted energy-saving measures such as the reduced speed limit. His administration expanded the highway system and added to state park holdings. During his term, ground was broken for the North Carolina Zoological Park.

After completing his term of office, Holshouser returned to private law practice. He took leading roles in Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign and James Martin's gubernatorial race. In 1979, he was elected to the UNC Board of Governors where he still serves as a member emeritus. In 1989, he joined the Board of Directors of the United Network for Organ Sharing, which establishes rules for distribution of organs for transplants. He has received the Freedom Guard Award from the United States Jaycees, the I.E. Ready Award, and the Razor Walker Award. Appalachian State University has endowed a professorship in ethics in his honor.

He and his wife Pat live in Southern Pines.

PUBLIC SERVICE **James E. Holshouser Jr.**



Michael Parker writes about a vast array of characters, but they all wrestle with what he describes as “the distance between how we want to love and be loved and the way that we actually are loved.” Whether it is a fourteen-year-old boy trying to save his family by finding his mother, or a jilted college girl whose hurt seeps out between the lines of an academic paper, his characters use language to bridge that distance. For his novels and short stories, Michael Fleming Parker receives the 2006 North Carolina Award for Literature.

Parker was born in 1959 in Siler City. His family moved to Clinton when he was six, when his father bought the local newspaper, the *Sampsonian*. He attended Appalachian State University for a year. Parker then worked at a series of blue-collar jobs in restaurants and warehouses before re-entering college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In the creative writing program, Parker studied with Lee Smith, Daphne Athas, and Marianne Gingher, graduating with honors in 1984.

For the next two years, he wrote in the early morning hours before going to his job driving a forklift in the warehouse of the University of North Carolina Press. In 1987, his short stories were first published in literary journals. As a Henry Hoyns Fellow, Parker earned a masters of fine arts from the University of Virginia in 1988. After a series of one-year college appointments, Parker joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1992, where he is now a professor of English.

His first novel, *Hello Down There*, was submitted independently and published by Scribners in 1993. The story of Edwin, a middle-aged reclusive addict who reveals himself through letters to teenaged Eureka, won critical acclaim. The *New York Times Book Review* praised Parker’s “bone-deep affection for his characters, his love of clear, crisp, pungent language, his confidence in the possibility of redemption.”

Journeys and distinctive voices are strong motifs in Parker’s work. “My characters have a relationship to place that people assume is real Southern, because they love where they come from or they hate where they come from, but they are never indifferent towards it,” Parker said. “Most of my characters love language and delight in language.”

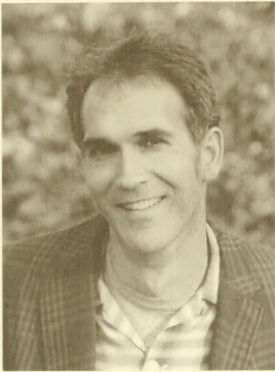
The Geographical Cure, a story collection published in 1994, won the Sir Walter Raleigh Award. *Towns without Rivers* continues Eureka’s story as she leaves her hometown. *Virginia Lovers* follows two brothers, one a high school football star, the other a brilliant slacker. *If You Want Me to Stay*, a BookSense Pick and a *New York Times* Editor’s Choice, tells of Joel’s flight from a chaotic household, searching Carolina coastal towns for his runaway mother. Parker has had over twenty short stories published in journals and anthologies.

Among Parker’s awards are the Pushcart Prize, the Goodheart Prize for Fiction, and the O. Henry Award. He has received fellowships from the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Michael Parker lives in Greensboro.

LITERATURE

Michael Fleming Parker



Roy Parker Jr. identifies himself as not just a newspaperman but “a North Carolina newspaperman.” Parker has been covering North Carolina news for over fifty years, writing for every type of paper from small weeklies to major dailies. For his lifelong work as a journalist and historian, Joseph Roy Parker Jr. receives the 2006 North Carolina Award for Public Service.

Parker was born in 1930 in Ahoskie into a family of newspaper men. His father, Roy Parker Sr., and his uncle, J. Mayon Parker, owned and ran local weekly newspapers in Hertford, Bertie, and Northampton counties. In 1941, the family moved to Chapel Hill, where his father taught journalism at the university. His mother worked as a dorm hostess and later served on the Northampton County Board of Education.

During the summers, Parker worked for his uncle in Hertford. First he was a “printer’s devil,” doing odd jobs; he then learned the “back shop” work of a newspaper, everything from setting type to delivering the papers. After earning his undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina in 1952, he worked as an editor for the family papers.

In 1957, Parker joined the staff of the *News and Observer* in Raleigh, covering the legislature as the Capitol correspondent. “When Sam Ragan asked me to Raleigh, it was heaven to me,” Parker said. “When they sent me to Washington, it was even more heavenly—I didn’t even have to report to an office.” For nine months in 1959, through an internship offered by the American Political Science Association, Parker worked for Congressman Hale Boggs of Louisiana, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, and Senator Sam Ervin. The *News and Observer* sent him back to Washington as a correspondent in 1963, where he arrived just before President Kennedy’s assassination and remained through President Nixon’s first term. In 1972, Parker returned to North Carolina as the press secretary for Hargrove “Skipper” Bowles’s campaign for governor.

After the campaign, Parker became the founding editor of the *Fayetteville Times* in 1973. Parker wrote the newspaper’s book column for twenty-five years and worked as a contributing editor until his retirement in 2001. Always interested in history, Parker was captivated by the heritage of the Cape Fear River region. In 1993, he began a weekly column on military history for the paper, which he still writes. He wrote *Cumberland County, A Brief History*, published by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, now the Office of Archives and History, and was the co-author of *Fayetteville and Fort Bragg in Vintage Postcards*.

Parker has served as an officer and board member of many organizations, including the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, the Airborne and Special Operations Museum Foundation, the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, the North Carolina Writers’ Conference, and as a trustee of the North Carolina Museum of Art. He was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at Harvard University and was inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame in 1999.

Parker and his wife Marie live in Fayetteville.

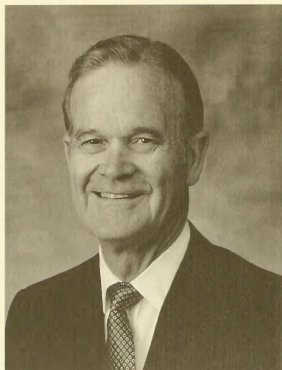
PUBLIC SERVICE

Roy Parker Jr.



SCIENCE

Charles A. Sanders, M.D.



Whether working as a cardiologist, professor, an executive at major pharmaceutical companies, or serving on boards of biotechnology firms, Dr. Charles Sanders has championed the central importance of research to medical advancement. For leadership in the field of medicine, Charles A. Sanders receives the 2006 North Carolina Award for Science.

Sanders grew up in Dallas, Texas, and his ambition was so clear that his family nicknamed him "Doc." He graduated from Southwestern Medical College at the University of Texas in 1955. An internship at Boston City Hospital with the Harvard Medical Service led to a Clinical Research Fellowship in cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital and a teaching position at Harvard Medical School in 1958. He served in the Air Force Medical Corps for two years, earning the rank of captain.

In 1962, Sanders returned to Massachusetts General Hospital to start the cardiac catheterization unit, a cutting-edge medical procedure at the time. He became director of the hospital in 1972. During his directorship, he oversaw the construction of an ambulatory care center and established the Institute for Health Professions, which provided national accreditation to nurses and other health professionals. He has published over one hundred scientific papers and health-care articles.

Having accomplished his goals at the hospital, Sanders switched fields, to the pharmaceutical industry. "When I began practicing medicine, hospitals were filled with people with conditions that are now being treated with drugs," Sanders said. "The move gave me the chance to pursue projects that could benefit thousands of people, to really make a difference." As an executive at the Squibb Corporation, Sanders managed the company's science and technology development and medical research from 1981 to 1989.

Sanders came to North Carolina in 1989 as the Chief Executive Officer of Glaxo, Inc. The company prospered under his direction, building on the success of the anti-ulcer drug Zantac and bringing several new drugs to market, including Serevent for asthma, Imitrex for migraines, and Zofran for treating nausea associated with chemotherapy. One of his proudest achievements was creation of the North Carolina Healthy Start Foundation, devoted to reducing infant mortality through education. The foundation was started in 1990 with a five million dollar grant from Glaxo.

After his retirement in 1995, Sanders continued to support biomedical research through serving on the boards of biotechnology companies such as Genentech, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and IcaGen, Inc. He is past chairman of the New York Academy of Sciences and past chairman of The Commonwealth Fund. He has served in Washington, DC, on the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. As chairman of Project HOPE, a world health-care foundation, Sanders oversaw the equipping and training of personnel for the state-of-the-art Shanghai Children's Medical Center, China's first major pediatric teaching hospital. He is currently chairman of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Sanders lives in Durham with his wife Ann.

Precise, hard-edged geometry; shimmering, lyrical color; handprints trailing over thick layers of paint: over the decades, William T. Williams has explored all these techniques in his paintings. He seeks to combine "the ability to draw an informed line," while using color as the "carrier of emotional power" in his art. For his work as a painter and educator, William T. Williams receives the 2006 North Carolina Award for Fine Arts.

Williams was born in 1942 in Cross Creek, North Carolina, now part of Fayetteville. His family soon moved to New York City and he grew up spending summers in the country and the rest of the year in the city. "The duality of experience, having grown up in an urban environment and a rural one, those two things always tug at your sensibility," Williams has said. He studied art at City University of New York, Pratt Institute, and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and earned a masters of fine arts from Yale University in 1968. He joined the faculty of Brooklyn College in 1971, where he is a professor of art.

Williams's first show was in 1969 at the Studio Museum in Harlem. He soon gained the attention of the New York art world. That same year, his art was in shows at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the American Embassy in Moscow. His work was compared to that of prominent abstract artists Frank Stella and Mark Rothko. Yet within a few years, Williams moved beyond geometric formalism into more fluid personal expressions.

Just as his work contains dualities of color and form, formality and individualism, Williams has had to balance the expectations placed on an African American artist and the demands of his own artistic growth. In the late 1970s, he took his first trip to Africa and returned with a different concept of the relation of his art to the community. "I hope that my work is about celebration, about an affirmation of life in the face of diversity; reaffirm that we're human, that we're alive," Williams said.

Williams's paintings are in noted collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Library of Congress, the Whitney Museum, and corporations such as Chase Manhattan Bank. His first major solo exhibit in his home state was at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem in 1985. His work was in several important touring exhibits, including *To Conserve a Legacy: American Art from Historically Black Colleges and Universities* in 1999 and *Seeing Jazz* in 1997.

Williams's talent has garnered many awards, including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts awards. He was the first African American contemporary artist to be included in the 1986 edition of the legendary reference work, *The History of Art* by H. W. Janson.

Williams and his wife Patricia live in New York. He still paints in the lower Manhattan studio where he has worked for the past thirty-five years.

FINE ARTS

William T. Williams



LITERATURE

Emily Herring Wilson



"I think there is a mystery about her because she lived a private life," Emily Herring Wilson says about garden writer Elizabeth Lawrence. "I wanted to pay homage to a woman I thought had been slighted in history — not just Elizabeth Lawrence, but also women like her." Through her work, Wilson has focused attention on the importance of the lives of women, their overlooked moments, and their contributions. For her poetry, nonfiction and teaching, Emily Herring Wilson receives the 2006 North Carolina Award for Literature.

Wilson grew up in Columbus, Georgia, and attended the neighborhood elementary school where her mother taught. Her favorite book as a child was *The Secret Garden*. She studied poetry with Randall Jarrell at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, graduating in 1961. She earned her masters degree in 1962 from Wake Forest University, where she taught for two years.

Over time, Wilson's career expanded to include journalism, poetry, and publishing. Her first poetry collection, *Down Zion's Alley*, was published in 1972. As one of the first poets in the North Carolina Arts Council's "Poetry in Schools" program, she taught poetry to public school children and led teacher workshops. She was an editorial writer for the *Winston-Salem Journal*. In 1975, Wilson and friends started a small publishing house, Jackpine Press. Wilson's poetry collections include *Balancing on Stones*, *Solomon's Seal*, *Arise Up and Call Her Blessed*, and, in 2001, *To Fly without Hurry*.

Wilson became involved in community advocacy, working especially with civil rights issues and women's lives. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, she traveled and collected oral histories for the book, *Hope and Dignity: Older Black Women of the South*. In 1984, she gave public programs as a scholar with the North Carolina Humanities Council. Wilson also wrote books on philanthropy and compiled an oral history of New Bern.

Wilson's involvement in the North Carolina Women's History Project led to her collaboration with Margaret Supplee Smith, curator of the major women's history exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History in 1994. They co-authored the book *North Carolina Women: Making History*, which received the 1999 Mayflower Cup for nonfiction.

While working with Smith, Wilson discovered the writing of gardener Elizabeth Lawrence. Beacon Press initially turned down Wilson's proposed biography, but editors were interested in Lawrence's correspondence with legendary *New Yorker* editor Katharine S. White. After intense "detective work" tracking down the letters, Wilson published *Two Gardeners: Katharine S. White and Elizabeth Lawrence — A Friendship in Letters*. The book was such a success that Wilson was offered a contract for a Lawrence biography, published in 2005 as *No One Gardens Alone*. She is working to preserve Lawrence's house and garden in Charlotte.

Wilson has served on the boards of the North Carolina Writers' Network, the People for the American Way, and the advisory panel for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. She has been a fellow of the MacDowell Colony and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

Wilson and her husband Ed live in Winston-Salem.



